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THE EUROPEAN "SMART VILLAGE" CONCEPT AS A TOOL FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

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Abstract: *The state of long-term strategic planning in the territorial communities of Ukraine has been investigated, and the necessity of modernizing the administrative processes of spatial development based on the European "Smart Village" concept has been substantiated. Using the example of the Irshansk territorial community, the application of the smart specialization approach is analyzed, specifically through the comprehensive revitalization of exhausted titanium quarries into a modern tourist and innovation center to diversify the economy and increase the investment attractiveness of the municipality.*

Key words: *territorial community, strategic planning, public management and administration, decentralization, innovative development, digitalization, spatial development, "Smart Village" concept, smart specialization, investment attractiveness.*

The decentralization reform in Ukraine has fundamentally transformed the architecture of spatial governance, shifting primary administrative and financial responsibilities to the level of territorial communities. However, traditional municipal management models often struggle with resource deficits and a lack of long-term strategic planning capabilities, resulting in formal but highly ineffective local development strategies. This paper aims to analyze the current state of long-term planning policies in Ukrainian municipalities and substantiate the critical necessity of modernizing administrative processes in spatial development based on the European "Smart Village" concept.

The research employs a structural analysis of local socio-economic programs, focusing on the Irshansk territorial community - a powerful mono-functional titanium mining center - as a primary case study. Despite exhibiting a high financial capacity, the community's strategic initiatives demonstrate a deficit of innovative approaches to economic diversification. To address this, the study investigates the implementation of the "Smart Specialisation" model and the "LEADER" approach to unlock municipal resource potential and foster local partnerships.

The scientific novelty of the work lies in developing a conceptual framework for the comprehensive revitalization of exhausted industrial landscapes. The authors propose transforming post-industrial titanium quarries into a modern industrial-recreational environment integrated with smart technologies. The practical area of application includes actionable strategies for local governments, such as creating ecological trails equipped with QR navigation, augmented reality (AR) portals to visualize historical mining processes, and the integration of smart sensors for the continuous environmental monitoring of water, soil, and radiation levels. This approach provides a practical roadmap for communities to transition from extensive industrial dependency to an innovative, tourism-driven economic model.

The study concludes that Ukrainian spatial development policies require a paradigm shift away from superficial planning towards innovative solutions based on local competitive advantages. Implementing the "Smart Village" concept serves as a vital institutional benchmark for territorial communities. By fostering smart specialization and branding the municipality as an innovative industrial and tourist hub, communities can significantly enhance their investment attractiveness, ensure sustainable economic progress, and strengthen their financial independence within the ongoing decentralization reform.

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